



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS SUMMARY: PLEASANT PRAIRIE RESIDENT INDICTED ON ARMED BANK ROBBERY CHARGES

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that the grand jury returned a three-count indictment charging JOSHUA BAFFORD (DOB: 8/13/81) with bank robbery, use of a firearm in connection with a crime of violence, and making a bomb threat.

According to a criminal complaint, on February 26, 2003, Bafford, allegedly entered the M&I Bank in Lake Geneva, approached a teller, revealed a semiautomatic handgun in his waistband, and demanded money. In an attempt to divert law enforcement, Bafford made an anonymous phone call to the Lake Geneva Police Department minutes before entering the bank and claimed that someone at Badger High School was threatening to blow up a bomb.

Bafford was arrested in California and returned to Wisconsin by the United States Marshals Service.

Armed robbery carries a penalty of up to 25 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. The brandishing of a firearm during the robbery carries a mandatory minimum seven (7) year consecutive prison term.

The case was investigated by the Kenosha Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Lake Geneva Police Department, and the Kenosha Sheriff's Department and has been assigned to Gregory J. Haanstad for prosecution.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the formal method of returning charges against an individual and does not constitute inference of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government established his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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